




By Wu Jin

China.org.cn, May 24, 2016

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Members from the Confederation of Toronto Chinese Canadian Organizations voiced their support for China's stance on the sovereignty issue of the South China Sea at a press conference held yesterday in Toronto, Canada. [Photo: Chinanews.com]

Members from the Confederation of Toronto Chinese Canadian Organizations consisting of more than 80 Chinese Canadian organizations voiced their support for China's stance on the sovereignty issue of the South China Sea at a press conference held yesterday in Toronto, Canada.

During the press conference, the delegates bashed the deal reached between the United States and the Philippines which, in their view, troubled the region with instability. They also called for the Canadian administration not to intervene into the issues concerning the sovereignty of the South China Sea at the upcoming G7 Summit held in Japan.

Wei Chengyi, president of the Confederation of Toronto Chinese Canadian Organizations, said, despite the fact that the South China Sea has been within the scope of China's sovereignty for several centuries, China continues to adhere to a peaceful road by pledging to resolve the disputes through direct dialogues.

The 80 societies affiliated to the Confederation of Toronto Chinese Canadian Organizations have unanimously supported China's proposal and called for more overseas Chinese to encourage the

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stance of their original home country in order to sustain the peace and stability of the region, said the chairman.

Lin Li, honorary president of the Confederation, said, since the United States carried out the strategy of rebalancing to the Asia-Pacific, it has enhanced the military deployments around the sea and flamboyantly sent fleets and fighters time and again. It is the United State that escalates the tension of the South China Sea.

Chen Bingding, a lawyer and honorary president of the Confederation, spoke against the legitimacy of the arbitration proposed recently by the Philippines. As arbitration proceedings should be jointly initiated by both parties in a dispute, the application of the Philippines to arbitrate the dispute without the agreement of China does not comply with the common practice, he said.

The South China Sea has been inarguably under the sovereignty of China with sufficient historical evidence. With the growing competence of China's naval forces, the country is able to protect its legal interests which had been neglected due to its less mature navy. However, the legal defense has been accused by a number of countries alleging that China is the country causing the sovereignty disputes, Chen said.

"It seems like a robber is living next door to me. In the past, when he robbed my home, I was powerless to resist; however, now I have grown strong and warned him not to break into my house. Meanwhile, I stand accused as the one who provoked the dispute," Chen said.

The news conference was held on the day when the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrived in Japan. The Confederation asked the Federal Administration to avoid any involvement in the political agenda set by a number of developed countries over the disputes of the South China Sea as the Summit is supposed to focus on economic issues.

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